

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum DECAPTIONED

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TO : The Ambassador and the DCM  
THRU : POL - WHHALLMAN  
FROM : TBFreidman

DATE: February 27, 1980

SUBJECT: The Brodsky Case

Dr. Mauricio Brodsky, the father of Fernando Brodsky, visited me February 27 to report that his son did not call home from his place of detention on Monday, February 25. Thus, it is now four weeks since the family has had contact with Fernando, who disappeared in August 1979 and then suddenly began calling home the last week in December.

Brodsky also reported that the last phone call from the five "visiting or communicating" August disappeared was received on February 22, when Josefina Villaflor de Hassan spoke to her family. She told them that they should not worry if she did not call for a little while since there were "some changes" being made and she might be out of touch briefly. Earlier, on February 14, Pablo Lepiscopo called and told his family that he would not be calling the next week because of "changes" but, he suggested, that is was likely that he would be allowed to visit home on February 28.

All this reminds us of another case of "visiting disappeared" with which we are familiar at first hand, that of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Weisz, who told their family in December of 1978 that they would be out of touch for a while but not to worry. In fact, the family never again heard from the Weisz. I believe that they are both probably dead.

Comment: The saga of these August disappeared is both grim and documented. Soon after the disappearances, MinInterior Harguindeguy boasted to a group of European Ambassadors that the individuals involved had really not disappeared. Rather, Harguindeguy said, "I know exactly where they are." Later we heard rumors that some of the same August disappeared were being held in Campo del Mayo. Then in December General Viola suggested to you that some of the August disappeared would eventually surface. The five cases of the visiting August disappeared appeared to have been a fulfillment of that prediction. (The individuals involved are Brodsky; Lepiscopo; Jose Hassan; his wife, Josefina Villaflor de Hassan; and her sister-in-law, Maria Martinez de Villaflor).

Now, unless the GOA soon produces these five, the reasonable and probably accurate suspicion will be that they have been killed in the last month. The poignance of this -- as well as the importance

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
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these cases could take on in bilateral U.S. - Argentine relations -- is underscored by the Brodskys having told relatives in the U.S. (perhaps ill-advisedly but understandably) the wonderful news of their having heard from Fernando.

Dr. Brodsky has asked for our intervention in behalf of his son. I believe we should follow up vigorously and rapidly with the GOA. I would like to meet with you to talk about the best course of action.

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